

Notices of Firms.

NOTICE.
THE Interest and Responsibility of Mr. THOMAS, PICKERING DROWN, in our Firm, ceased on the 10th November, 1874.
S. WINGENT & Co.
Swatow, China, 10th October, 1874. (R1669)

MR. COLIN CAMPBELL WILLIAMS is this day admitted a Partner in our Firm.
S. WINGENT & Co.
Swatow, China, 10th October, 1874. (R1669)

NOTICE.
I HAVE established myself at this Port as Merchant and Commission Agent.
A. MACG. HIBDON.
491 Hongkong, 31st March, 1874.

NOTICE.
I HAVE this day established myself at this Port as a WINE and SPIRITS MERCHANT and GENERAL COMMISSION AGENT.
OFFICE—No. 50, Queen's Road Central.
ED. CHAPMAN.
3rd 1812 Hongkong, 24th October, 1874.

NOTICE.
THE Undersigned hereby give notice for general information that there is no Partnership whatever in the photographic business carried on under the name of "THE PHOTOGRAPHIC UNDERSIGNED" by the said Proprietor.
MR. J. NOBLE, MEXICO, is authorized to sign my name per pro.

NOTICE.
THE Undersigned has been appointed AGENT at this Port for Messrs. HENRY S. KING & Co. of London.
OFFICE—No. 3, Stanley Street.
W. H. NOTLEY.
1745 Hongkong, 24th October, 1874.

NOTICE.
MR. ALBERT THOMAS MANAGER has this day been admitted a Partner in our Firm.
DOUGLAS LAPPACK & Co.
1820 Hongkong, 24th November, 1874.

MARRIAGE.
On Nov. 28th, at Union Church, Hongkong, by the Rev. James Lamb, ALEXANDER FAZ-CONDA, of Hongkong, China, to ISABELLA ASHWORTH, eldest daughter of Mr. John Lamb, of Hongkong, 1874.

DEATH.
On the 21st September, 1874, at Christ Church, Cheltenham, near Melbourne, Australia, ALFRED DOWLEY TUCKER, Esq., aged 55.

The Daily Press.

HONGKONG, DECEMBER 18, 1874.

It is scarcely an exaggeration to say that fully one-half of the serious disputes which arise between the Government of Hongkong and the public are the result simply of the want of a little courtesy and tact on the part of the officials. So sweeping a statement may perhaps appear a little hard, but any one who has had an opportunity of seeing to some extent behind the scenes will be pleased to admit that it is not much in advance of the actual fact. The writer could, if it were necessary, amply prove the truth of this assertion from matters within his own experience; and many others in the Colony would have little difficulty in proving from their own knowledge how often mountains have been raised up out of molehills, and how could have been dealt with by a little tact and courtesy on the part of the officials to which an appeal was made. We have complaints on this score, from all quarters, without very good reason. A spirit of opposition and a want of conciliableness are repeatedly shown, such as cannot but tend to make a very undesirable breach between the officials and the other residents in the Colony; and it is in the hope that, on the principle of "a word to the wise," they may in some degree avert what must always be a regrettable state of affairs that the present remarks are penned.

The officials have had some rather unpleasant encounters with the public, which may tend to make them forgetful of the smaller in which should always accompany the former in red. But it may be perhaps well for them to reflect how far they might have been averted by a little tact and consideration. The officials in the Colony are invested with very great powers, and a little anxiety to assist those who call upon them will produce no lessening results in working off the rough corners which must frequently obtrude themselves in regard to public affairs. Unfortunately, however, as a rule, Hongkong officials seem to have very little idea of the great extent to which public business can be facilitated by a desire where possible to meet people half way, and the habit, where this is impossible, of at least seeking to make a courteous and pleasant first, and showing a willingness to do one's best. To people who act in this spirit, the public everywhere, and especially in England and British Colonies, is remarkably long suffering; and it is worth the while of those occupying official positions to take in a conciliatory manner, if for no other reason, because courtesy will often go further than either talent or knowledge. A habit and in consequence a reputation of being constantly courteous and approachable is probably the greatest power that a public man can possess; and many with but average talents have succeeded by such a reputation alone.

In Hongkong, a punctiliousness as to position and a constant desire to assert their own importance presents a large number of the officials—and some too in very high positions—from exercising one-half the power they might wield if they were only a little more considerate, and would remember the very simple fact that they are paid by the public, and that officials are created for the Colony, and not the Colony for the officials. Evasive and useless answers to notes, hasty and unkindly remarks, an absence of care for the interests of those who apply to them to take the place of the business-like tact, readiness and willingness which should always mark the public servant, not only in Government employ but in all positions where a person is called upon to deal with large numbers. Public companies look to courteous managers and address as one of the first qualifications of those whom they place in the leading positions in connection with the businesses which they have to conduct, and, if such qualifications are recognized as sources of importance power by commercial and general public institutions, it is clear that they must be a source of still greater influence both to individual officials

and to a Government as a whole. We are confident that were this very simple fact fully borne in mind in Hongkong, the difficulties which arise would be halved, and the effective powers of those in authority doubled—while the antagonism, which too often arises between the official and non-official classes, might be exchanged for such mutual respect as would enable those who take different views upon public matters, to differ it is true, but to differ in a manly and dignified manner, and without any of that feeling of petty opposition often verging upon personal ill-will, which, under existing circumstances, is unfortunately too frequently engendered.

The S. S. *Chia* is reported as having arrived in America.

The M. M. C. S. S. *Shih* left Swatow for Hongkong, yesterday morning, at 4 o'clock.

The steamers *Montgomeryshire*, *Olympia*, and *Cassandra* have passed through the Canal.

The steamers *Chia* and *Agamemnon* arrived at Shanghai on the 28th ultimo, from this port.

The stock of *Malva* (Opium) in Bombay, on the 27th ultimo, was 1,500 chests. The market was strong and advancing.

We hear that the Indian Mail *Patoka* (Steamer) and *Arcturion* (Steamer), bringing the 11th *Shah* Opium, left Swatow for this port on Saturday, 11th inst., at 10 o'clock.

An alarm of fire was given yesterday at 12:45 p.m. at the *Shah* (Steamer), which was a report from the *Arcturion* (Steamer) that there had been a fire in the roof of one of the rooms there. The *Shah* (Steamer) was at the time in the harbor. The fire was extinguished by the crew of the *Shah* (Steamer).

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All day yesterday a strong northerly gale, with much dust, and this morning the thermometer in the verandah stood at 31 degrees Fahrenheit. Of course it had been placed in the open, it would have shown a temperature of about 35 degrees.

The steamers *Chia* and *Agamemnon* arrived off the Settlement today, and are notified to leave tomorrow. The river is very

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Vessels on the Berth

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Post-Office Notifications

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